



March 23, 2009

TO: Chair, Supervisor Piepho
Vice Chair, Supervisor Glover

FROM: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

SUBJECT: Progress Report on IPM Activities

In my second month I have been working on the following projects:

IPM Task Force

1. Meeting with the Task Force
On 3/4/09, the following decisions were made:
 - a. The group will continue to meet every other month.
 - b. Staff will provide me with the pesticide posting policy that has already been developed by the Task Force. At the May meeting the group will identify any changes that need to be made.
 - c. The priorities for the Task Force were changed in response to the Board's recommendations (attached).
 - d. Pesticides of concern were discussed and those still being used in each department will be identified.
 - e. The group will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of developing an IPM ordinance at its May meeting.
 - f. The group will also discuss the IPM Advisory Committee by-laws at the May meeting.

Pesticide Use

2. Identifying pesticides used by Public Works and General Services and researching their toxicity
3. Researching pesticide options for termite treatment in County buildings in response to a specific termite issue at 50 Douglas
4. Creating a database for pesticide use tracking and reporting for the County
 - a. I have obtained a relatively simple database from Palo Alto. I will be working with County staff to determine if the database can meet the County's needs. At the very least, I am hoping that it will assist me in simplifying the process of making a year-end report on County pesticide use.

Structural IPM

5. Researching the toxicity of rodenticides (rat & mouse poisons) and understanding Orkin's rat management policy
 - a. As a first step, I have asked Orkin to remove toxic bait blocks from their rat bait stations and replace them with non-toxic monitoring blocks. When Orkin finds evidence of feeding at a particular station, they will replace the monitoring block with a poison block. The bait stations are tamper-resistant, locked, and secured to a wall or other substrate.
 - b. I have asked Orkin to find a bait block with warfarin as the active ingredient. This rodenticide is considered appropriate for an IPM program.
6. Developing a plan for managing rodents and ants when garbage collection is reduced from five to two days per week in various County buildings (including 651 Pine)
 - a. This cutback could result in increased complaints about ants, mice, and possibly rats.
 - b. To be pro-active about this issue Terry Mann, Deputy Director of General Services; Roland Hindsman, Facilities Maintenance Manager; Tom Lemon, Orkin Branch Manager; and I are working together to determine solutions.



- c. We will need administrative support for new policies involving County staff being vigilant about removing food waste themselves between trash pick-ups.
- d. We have been discussing how we can most effectively inform County staff about the connection between food waste and pest invasions, and how we can secure their cooperation.

Landscape IPM

- 7. Meeting with Bob Tamori, Grounds Manager, to review the areas and pest problems under his management
 - a. Bob and I have visited several special district sites to better understand the landscape maintenance done by General Services and the role of TruGreen Chem Lawn, the contractor hired by the County to spray herbicides.
- 8. Note that we have received word from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) that they did not accept the concept proposal for a Pest Management Alliance Grant to implement an IPM project in County-maintained parks and landscapes. It was rated highly, but funds were limited. DPR encouraged us to re-apply in the near future.

Roadside and Flood Control IPM

- 9. Creating a spreadsheet for pesticide use in Public Works that includes the amounts of active ingredients used in FY07/08 as compared to FY04/05, what weeds they were used for, and any environmental concerns with those pesticides. This will take a couple months to complete.
- 10. Working with the Vegetation Manager to develop goals and timelines for reducing pesticides use
- 11. Continuing my research on alternative methods of managing roadside vegetation

Report for the June TWIC Meeting

- 12. Developing a format for the report and identifying information that must be collected from each department

Other Projects

- 13. Completing interviews with Bay Area IPM Coordinators to understand methods they are using to solve similar problems
 - a. I have held interviews with Santa Clara County, Marin County, San Francisco, Palo Alto, Santa Monica, and U.C. Berkeley, and I will speak with the East Bay Regional Park District in the next few weeks.
 - b. Based on my suggestion that we initiate an IPM Coordinator's group to share information, I will arrange the first meeting in the next few months.
 - c. The Marin County Deputy Ag. Commissioner and I are developing a comparison of pesticide use in Bay Area county IPM programs.
- 14. Writing an EPA grant to fund a bed bug project in the County
 - a. PEHAB, Pestec (an Antioch pest control company that specializes in bed bug IPM and is EcoWise certified), and Finger Art & Design (a Green Business in Walnut Creek) have agreed to partner on a proposal to create several short videos with collateral written material to train building occupants and landlords in preventing and eliminating bed bugs in County housing projects.

Meetings attended:

- 1. IPM Task Force
- 2. PEHAB
- 3. Master Gardener Training to introduce myself
- 4. Meeting with Jim Hale, Fish and Wildlife Committee representative on the IPM Task Force, to educate him about the Task Force as a new member
- 5. Meeting with Clean Lakes, Inc. in Martinez, to learn about the aquatic vegetation management services they offer other counties
- 6. Meeting with Public Works staff and Susan JunFish to discuss the grant for a goat grazing study received by Parents for a Safer Environment
- 7. Meeting with Leading Edge Pest Control and Roland Hindsman to inspect a termite problem at 50 Douglas

IPM Workplan Priorities for 2009

MARCH 4, 2009

Work Priorities	January Task Force Order	Suggested Order	Comments
Pest Mgmt Plans (develop, review regularly)	1	---	Subsumed in new 5, 6 & 7
Contracts	2	4	High priority as General Services needs this year
Public Works Analysis	3	5	For each dept, review pest mgmt plans, pesticides and pesticides of concern
General Services Analysis	---	6	
Agriculture Analysis	---	7	
Review pesticides use (including pesticides of concern)	4	---	Subsumed in new 5, 6 & 7
Tracking System	5	8	Very long term based on experience of other counties
Pesticide Information to Public	6	9	Tied to tracking, so very long term
Posting	7	2	Board priority to formulate written policy
IPM Ordinance	8	3	Board priority to consider
Establish IPM Advisory Committee	9	1	Board expects a finalized structure